



February 1, 2001

Dear Georgetown Resident or Business Owner:

As part of the on-going study of groundwater contamination coming from historic practices at 734 South Lucile Street, contaminants have now been detected in groundwater as far west from the facility as Second Avenue and as far south as Fidalgo Street. Burlington Environmental, Inc. (d.b.a. Philip Services) currently owns this Lucile Street site.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology recently learned of these preliminary findings from Philip Services (Philip). The main contaminants of concern are vinyl chloride and trichloroethene (TCE). Philip will conduct additional testing along East Marginal Way, as well as several other locations, this month.

City-supplied drinking water is not affected by these contaminants. Groundwater, however, should not be used for drinking water or for any other purposes, such as irrigation.

The technical information and results for this recent groundwater study are in a report titled, "Technical Memorandum IV: Results From Supplemental Off-Site Characterization Sampling." This publication, as well as other technical information, can be reviewed at repositories located in Seattle at the Beacon Hill Library at 2519 15th Avenue South, or the EPA Regional Office Library at 1200 Sixth Avenue.

Philip Services plans to conduct additional sampling of groundwater and soil gas. The Washington State Department of Health will collect and analyze indoor air samples. To learn more about the next steps for studying and cleaning up groundwater contamination in the Georgetown area, please see the information on the back of this letter. If you have questions, please contact:

Jeanne O'Dell, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 206-553-6919

Sheila Hosner, Public Outreach Coordinator, State Department of Ecology, at 425-649-7071

Curt Hart, Public Information Officer, State Department of Ecology, at 425-649-7009



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT
GEORGETOWN ENCLOSED**



Georgetown Groundwater Investigation Update

Additional Areas of Contamination Found

The on-going study of groundwater contamination stemming from historic practices at 734 S. Lucile Street have now revealed contaminants in groundwater as far west from the facility as Second Avenue and as far south as Fidalgo Street. Burlington Environmental, Inc. (d.b.a. Philip Services) currently owns the Lucile Street site.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology recently learned of these preliminary findings from Philip Services (Philip). The main contaminants of concern are vinyl chloride and trichloroethene (TCE).

Additional Testing Scheduled for Adjacent Areas

Philip plans to conduct additional groundwater and soil gas sampling this month. The Washington State Department of Health will collect and analyze indoor air samples. Locations for sampling will be based on the concentrations of underlying groundwater contamination and whether the buildings have basements that could more easily allow soil vapors to enter indoor air.

In March 2001, Philip Services will propose new monitoring wells for sites west of Denver Avenue and south of Lucile Street. By June 1, 2001, (as proposed in EPA's draft Permit Modification) Philip will submit a report to EPA that analyzes the results from sampling groundwater, soil gas and indoor air.

Where Does the Process Go From Here?

The Environmental Protection Agency is committed to finishing Philip's investigation as quickly as possible, after which alternative cleanup strategies will be developed. EPA will ask for the public to comment on a preferred remedy, then the best remedy for the contamination will be chosen and implemented.

EPA proposes to modify Section VII of Philip Services current permit, which deals with the "corrective actions" required to clean up the groundwater contamination. **Significant changes to this section include a task-by-task enforceable schedule for completing the corrective actions.** Other parts of the existing RCRA permit issued in 1991 remain unchanged.

We Want to Know Your Concerns

The EPA welcomes public comments on the draft permit modification. A 60-day public comment period started with the issuance of the draft permit on January 15, 2001, and will conclude on March 16, 2001. The draft Permit Modification is also available for your review at the Beacon Hill Library or the EPA Regional Office Library. Written comments may be submitted to:

Ed Jones, EPA Project Manager
1200 Sixth Avenue, MS/WCM-121
Seattle, WA 98101, or by
E-mail: PhilipGeorgetownR10@epa.gov

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Eagles Hall located at 6205 Corson Avenue. If you wish to comment in person, please plan to attend. A brief information sharing session will be conducted prior to the hearing.

Information is also available at the EPA web page: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/owcm.nsf/permits/philip-georgetown1>

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting the EPA number listed above.

